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SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1908.

Standing Up for the Blacklegs.

The Washington Post editorial sneers at the District Commissioners and heaps ridicule upon them because they are seeking to suppress race-track gambling. Thus it stands up for an evil which diverts at least \$500,000 annually from the channels of trade into the pockets of New York blacklegs and their allies; an evil which nine-tenths of the business men of Washington want to see wiped out, and which is roundly condemned by right-minded people in all walks of life.

The damaging, demoralizing influences of race-track gambling are realized the country over to-day. Chicago, St. Louis, and other cities abolished it long ago. New York is moving for its suppression, and assuredly will suppress it at an early day. A sport or business that depends for its support upon gambling has no valid claim to existence and ought to be outlawed—arbitrarily, if necessary. It is a reflection upon the National Capital that the evil should have been allowed to flourish here all these years. Everybody knows how it has flourished—through half-splitting rulings on demerits in the courts and half-hearted action on the part of the authorities, which not only have permitted the gambling to go on by sufferance, but have had a tendency to bring about contempt for the law.

Justice Stafford's recent decision settled nothing except that the district attorney had not made a case. On certain points involved the gamblers triumphed. But there was at least an intimation in the decision that they might be reached under the same statute.

The District Commissioners are serving the public in proceeding against the gamblers. The same vigorous policy that was exerted and enforced against the handbook men will drive out the book-makers as well. While it is true that a new and stringent law is needed and ought to be enacted at once, there is law now to reach these blacklegs if it be utilized vigorously, fearlessly, and adequately. The support of the whole community is behind the District Commissioners in their determination to raid the gamblers. Let them be aided day by day. That will quickly end the evil.

It seems reasonably certain that King Alfonso will kill himself automobiling. If the anarchists will only be content to wait a while.

Peculiar Army Opposition.  
A legislative step in the right direction has been taken by Congress in passing the bill which increases the commissioned personnel of the Medical Department of the army. There is a difference in the measures passed respectively by the Senate and House, but the distinction is of minor importance and will probably be adjusted in conference. The less liberal of the bills has the effect of adding to the personnel five colonels, eight lieutenants, forty majors, and sixty captains or first lieutenants—a modest augmentation, when it is considered that the commissioned personnel of the branch is much below its proportionate strength and is not equal to the demands made upon it.

There was one feature of the debate in the House on Monday, when the bill was passed, which is worthy of remark. Representative Mann opposed the measure of relief, and stated that he had heard from army officers of the line that there was no need of the legislation, and that the bill should be killed. It is a pity that Mr. Mann was not led to disclose the source of this view. As the matter stands at present, certain line officers of the army are placed in the position of seeking to defeat the bill, because they are not directly benefited by its provisions. It cannot be that any such sentiment prevails, since the officers of the line are accustomed upon firing line to the "noncombatants" of the Medical Department. This is so undeniably the situation that the official records show that the army Hospital Corps has lost in killed and wounded more than any other branch of the military establishment—line or staff—per thousand of strength. That is a pretty good record for "noncombatants," and shows the quality of the service rendered by the medical officers and the Hospital Corps men in the field. Their protection under the emblem of the Geneva convention is largely theoretical, and if they are not in the combat as fighters, they are there quite as much as the marksmen in the performance of their humane and no less perilous duties.

Line officers know this better than people outside of the service, and it is amazing there should be any such effort as Representative Mann says has been made to defeat a measure which has the effect of making the Medical Department more efficient in time of war.

This is the first day of spring—officially.

Two Views of Tariff Revision.

While Mr. Bryan minimizes Secretary Taft's professions in behalf of tariff revision as illusive and half-hearted, genuine, dyed-in-the-wool standpatters denounce the amiable Secretary as a "tariff tinker" and a "free trader," a "tariff ripper" and a disturber of business. The American Economist puts Bryan and Taft in the same tariff boat. It says they are in perfect accord as to the urgent need of tariff revision. The election of either, it predicts, means an ardent crusade for tariff reform. The Bulletin of the Iron and Steel Association declares that "Mr. Taft is a free trader and not a protectionist." Both these standpatters organs and a host of protectionist papers under their influence are singing the same tune—Let the tariff alone! Yet the Republican leaders in Congress have grudgingly admitted that some-

thing will have to be done, and that something will be done, with the tariff at the next session.

There is, as the foregoing indicates, a strong division of opinion within the Republican party as to the necessity or the desirability of revision, and also among the revisionists as to the purpose, extent, and method of revision, should it be entered upon. This division of opinion accounts for the studied ambiguity of the Ohio and Iowa Republican platforms, and for the proviso with which every Republican utterance favorable to revision is coupled, that whatever revision is undertaken shall not conflict with the principle of protection to American industry and labor. Your genuine revisionist, however, wants the measure of protection reduced; wants duties lessened or taken off, so as to insure a freer movement of foreign commerce; while the standpatter would revise duties so as to strengthen the hold of American industries on the home market.

It is obvious from these considerations that the spirit in which tariff revision may be undertaken by the Republicans, should they be returned to power, will depend wholly on the development of revision sentiment within the party. Should that sentiment prove to be the Dingley stripe, we may expect another Dingley bill, or McKinley bill, brought up to date; should it turn out to be of a different order, we may reasonably hope for revision that will accomplish something for the relief of the consumer and for the benefit of foreign trade. There is no danger of the elimination of protection from any tariff bill that may be passed, whether by Republicans or Democrats, so that it is foolish to call Taft, or even Bryan, a free trader. The most that can be expected is some modification of the extreme application of the protective principle characteristic of recent tariff measures; and even that will not be obtained unless an effective external pressure can be brought to bear on the leaders of both Houses of Congress.

Few people in this world will get as fine obituary notices fifteen hundred years after they are snatched hence as St. Patrick is getting just now.

Senator Bacon and the Clerks.  
Broadly speaking, we are inclined to sympathize with the view expressed by Senator Bacon in Congress recently anent the subject of increased pay for all government clerks.

The Senator takes the position that Congress, having provided for increased pay for itself, Cabinet ministers, and various executive officers, is doing nothing of a virtual increase of the President's pay through indirect methods, is in honor bound to take care of all the government clerks without more ado. True, proposals looking to the increased pay of various clerks in certain higher classes are now under consideration, and we doubt not, the pay of all clerks, of whatever name or nature, will ultimately be raised. This, however much to be wished for in itself, is, nevertheless, not quite fair to the lower grades; it postpones something, at best, to which they are clearly entitled now.

As a matter of fact, we appear to have pinned the cart before the horse in this matter. Instead of commencing with Congress and working down to the lowest-paid clerks, we should, as an equitable proceeding, have commenced with the lower grades and worked up. Surely, it will be agreed that the \$75 or \$100 a month clerk needs the proposed increase more than the government servant whose salary runs well up into the thousands. Congress has been drawing a 50 per cent increase in pay for a year now; other officials for less time, and some others will draw increased pay during the next year. In case the lower grades are reached within the next year or two, it will, to be sure, be something; but why Congress should draw an increase for two or three years before the "small fry" gets its increase we fail to see.

Senator Bacon evidently feels that Congress is not keeping faith with the country in this matter. He frankly admits that he does not want his salary put back at its old figure, but he fails to understand the logic or the fairness of a proposition that permits him to collect his salary and denies the petty paid clerks an additional compensation. The Senator thinks cost-of-living sauce for the goose should be cost-of-living sauce for the gander likewise. So far as we are concerned, we agree with the Senator. Congress should take the question of increased pay for the clerks in hand frankly, and adjust it righteously. The lower grades are entitled to consideration in just the same measure that the higher grades are entitled to it—perhaps more. It seems to us that a flat increase of 20 per cent, as heretofore proposed, all along the line would be the proper thing.

If our Washington baseball team will try to raise its batting average this year, we'll see what we can do in the way of lowering the bleachers' hammering average.

Former Mayor Schmitz was wildly cheered in a San Francisco theater Tuesday night. Even a Pennsylvania grater was accused of having been thrown at him. He had to be rescued by the police.

The president of the Georgia Anti-Saloon League complains that the members have been in the field. Their protection under the emblem of the Geneva convention is largely theoretical, and if they are not in the combat as fighters, they are there quite as much as the marksmen in the performance of their humane and no less perilous duties.

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A LITTLE NONSENSE.

ROYAL RANCOR.  
"I dub thee knight," he should have said. That was the thing. But better humors often led. His nibs, the king.

It was a sort of business knight. Inclined to wilt. When fast or furious waxed the fight. In any tilt.

The king distasteful in that fact proceed. To coarsely rib. His words were cruel words, indeed: "I knight thee, dub."

Often the Way.  
"He wanted a big office."  
"He could have had a small one."  
"True; but he preferred having a grievance."

His Chance.  
"But maybe you don't like to hear the smart sayings of other people's children," said the man who had been telling them for an hour.

"Any of them responded the other man. 'I think they ought to be imperiously preserved. I sell phonographs—dollar and a dollar semi-occasionally. How about one?'"

There was nothing to do but invest. "What does the duchess think of America?"

"Says it's not a bad place."  
"I'm sure it isn't for a duchess."  
"Well, she was born in Milwaukee."

Signs.  
Gentle spring will soon be blowing. In I guess.  
For the stiff winds are growing. In the press.

March of Progress.  
"A steamship is being projected 1,000 feet long, with many unusual features." "Any of them really new to the ocean-going service?"

"Yes; a line of cabs on each deck."

Not Worried.  
"I guess you coal men didn't make much profit this winter." "We were satisfied to break even in winter. We make our profits during the long arctic spring."

Not Extinct.  
"A high chair?" "Exactly."  
"And for one of the smart set, too?" "Yes," explained the dealer; "people still want 'em for dogs."

HOW THE TARIFF WORKS.

Helps to Develop the Evils the President is Fighting.

From the Indianapolis News.  
Representative Hitchcock, of Nebraska, told the truth when he said in the House of Representatives a few days ago that the real object of those who got the Dingley paper duties through was to capitalize the water power and the spruce forests of the United States, form a great monopoly, and raise the price of print paper. These purposes were accomplished. The paper trust, though "tamed," is still doing business in the old way, still oppressing the people as much as ever.

Would it not be well to consider the question of our national resources more from this point of view? Capital and labor and brains are all parts of our national resources. It is through the application of these to natural agents that our other resources develop. Such taxes as those which we levy for the benefit of the steel and paper trusts, not only interfere with that development, but they make it possible for a few men who get the taxes to say whether there shall be any development. The high duties have done much to stimulate "forest destruction," which the President very properly deprecates, while "predatory wealth" does not small part of its stealing under the protection of a tariff which, the President says, has no relation to trusts. The people understand this, and they will grow more and more insistent in their demand for relief. It is going to be harder and harder to stand pat.

A Long Way Behind.  
From the Chicago Post.  
The "special correspondents with the fleet" seem to be making one of the longest train chases of nautical history.

CAPITOL GOSSIP.

A New Englander by birth, an Illinoisan by adoption, and a Cannon-bomber by choice is Henry Sherman Boutell, Representative from the Ninth district of Illinois.

Belonging to the alma mater of one university wasn't enough for Mr. Boutell, and after graduating from the Northwestern University, at Evanston, Ill., he went to Harvard, in dear old Massachusetts, where he received the degree of A. M. (constitutional history and international law).

He was admitted to the bar of Illinois in 1879 and to the Supreme Court of the United States in 1885.

He was a member of the general assembly and one of the "107" who elected Gen. Logan to the United States Senate. Mr. Boutell has been president of so many clubs, societies, and institutions that it has become a habit with him to be elected presiding officer.

He was elected to the Fifty-fifth Congress to fill an unexpired term, and he filled it so well and with so much satisfaction to himself that he has been returned ever since.

He dimmed the limelight this session when, in a characteristic speech in the House, he nominated Uncle Joe Cannon for the Presidency.

Representative Boutell is running a close race with Representative Heflin, to see which can get the floor officer and say the most.

He is chairman of Committee on Expenditures in the Navy Department and a "trustee" on the Ways and Means Committee.

Among those who listened to Senator La Follette's speech on the Aldrich bill on Tuesday last was Lincoln Steffens, who occupied a seat in the Senators' family gallery, as did Mrs. La Follette. Mr. Steffens is well known as a writer on economic questions, and has done much toward awakening the country to corporate abuses and other public questions.

Frequenters of the Senate galleries are wondering just why new rules were promulgated for the day of Senator La Follette's speech. On the preceding day, when Senator Tillman and Senator Beveridge had a little of the old-fashioned debate in the Senate, and on the day upon which Senator Bailey discussed the currency bill, the galleries were crowded to the utmost capacity, and people were allowed to sit in the aisles and on the steps of the galleries, so that every inch of space was utilized. On Tuesday, however, when Mr. La Follette spoke, the seats alone were occupied, although long lines of people stood outside the gallery doors waiting for admission.

Everybody knows that Mr. La Follette's habit of speaking plainly anything that is on his mind, whether or not it shocks the superstitiousness of the Senate leaders to critics, has not endeared him to the Wisconsin reformers to those leaders, but it was not supposed that they would go so far as to endeavor to make it appear that he was not popular with the people of Washington.

Wonder if the doorkeepers were responsible, after all?

A son of Old Kentucky, Representative Johnson, yesterday presented a bill which will enable the drinking public to get certain kind of booze it drinks.

The bill requires manufacturers of wines and whiskies to label their products so as to show whether they are "rye whisky," "bourbon whisky," or "corn whisky." According to an opinion from the Attorney General, the packages may be labeled "drinking public." Mr. Johnson insists that intoxicants shall be sold "for what they are and not for what they ain't."

Heroes of the Schools.  
From the Buffalo Express.  
Did anybody ever hear of a school fire in which the women teachers have failed to do their utmost to save the lives of the children in their charge?

THE OPTIMIST.

The Optimist wrote the other day about the essential value of kindness if one would feel kinship with his brothers on earth. One of the marked evidences of real kindness is sympathy, than which there is no emotion that more nearly touches the soul or reaches the heart. It is all very well for a man in his strength to cry boastfully that he does not need any one's sympathy, but when I hear a man make that remark, I remember Dr. Johnson's—

To live without feeling, ending sympathy, to be afflicted without feeling the pain of pity, is a state man gloomy than solitude; it is not retreat, but expulsion from mankind.

There is no more human quality, nor one more necessary to the full and honest development of one's nature than that of sympathy—

Something the heart must have to cherish, Most love and joy and sorrow learn, Something with passion and with grief, And in itself to achieve bliss.

Addison said that half the misery of human life might be extinguished would men alleviate the general curse they lie under by mutual offices of compassion, benevolence, and humanity. Nothing is more humanizing than grief. It takes, sometimes, a bitter sorrow, a keen disappointment, to make a man realize that he who has known and gloried in prosperity is on the same level with his brothers. When the grief comes to himself and he seems for a time all alone, shut off in his companionship, cast down in deep gloom, then he can appreciate what real sympathy means. But it may well be that the full, rich meaning of sympathy will never come to a man until he has so attuned his heart that it is ripe to respond to the sorrows and griefs of others. There is no joy on earth, none which makes a man so fit for heaven as when, out of his abundance of joy and felicity, he stops on his onward march to lift up a fallen brother, to cheer on the weak-hearted, to speak the needed word of consolation to the man who stands in the sadness of soul, feeling the great emptiness of desolation. Then it is, perhaps, that a man realizes for the first time the fullness of human companionship; comes to realize that after all the hopes of this world are, at their best, but fleeting and temporary, and turns with aching heart and chastened spirit to the one Father of us all, whose arms are always open and whose words are always here for the healing of sorrows.

When the heart of man shuts out, Sometimes the heart of God takes in, And fuses them all round about.

With silence mid the world's loud din, Very well with us we are apt to say that it is a remedy only for weak souls. But when the sword that is suspended over all of us falls, and for a time we grow blindly and dumbly doubting the goodness of God and finding little that is gentle in humankind, then it is that we realize what sympathy may mean.

An imperfect soul seeing what is good and great about his very often fails in the attempt to attain to it, is apt to be hard in his judgments on the shortcomings of others. But a divine and somewhat more perfect soul, more nearly attuned to the measure of the perfect man—take a calmer and a gentler, because a larger-hearted view of those who make mistakes and indiscretions which it cannot but daily see.

So says Dean Farrar, and he was right. For no duty is more heavily laid upon a man—especially a man whose doctrine is that of cheerful optimism—than that of sympathy for our weaker brethren. As Amiel so truly said:

Alas! Alas! never to tire, never to grow old; to be patient, sympathetic, tender; to look for the budding flower and the opening heart; to hope always, like God, to love always, like God!

TAFT'S STORY OF JAPAN.

Secretary Tells of Delightful Experience of His Trip.

From Secretary Taft's Own Story of His Trip Around the World in National Magazine.  
The most hospitable and delightful courtesy was shown the American visitors throughout their stay in Japan. The Emperor placed the place of Shiba, in Tokyo, with its beautiful gardens and lake, at the disposal of his American guests, and the stay was memorable for novelty and interest. Although neither the Emperor nor the Empress speak English, their sympathetic attention proved that there is a universal language which all mankind understands. If the men and women of the United States have seen suggestions of differences between the two nations analyzed at length, they have experienced the genuineness of the Japanese welcome and the warmth of their hospitality, there would have been instant agreement that the subjects on which we are in accord far outnumber and outweigh those on which we may have slightly different opinions.

At a dinner tendered by the city of Tokyo to the American guests, 30 of the highest Japanese officials, including many high officials, were present. Large numbers seemed to fully understand the English language, and the responses to sentiments of good feeling between the two nations were instantaneous and enthusiastic.

The lake, near which the palace is situated, is a famous fishing water, containing large numbers of fine Japanese carp. Here, in this beautiful garden, the Empress is accustomed to spend much of her time, and occasionally she enjoys fishing for the little inhabitants of the rocky pools. No American small boy could withstand the opportunity which this furnished of enjoying the garden, and it was remarked that Charlie seemed to be catching a surprising number of the fishes, and on investigation it developed that there had been a judicious tip quietly furnished the employee charged with the duty of feeding the fishes by which he was encouraged to forget to feed them. The sport thereupon greatly improved.

There is a fascination about Japan which is felt by every traveler within her borders. Here may be seen strange and ancient customs adapted to the modern life of this busy age. Her prompt adoption of the best in the civilization of the younger world is a fact which everyone who has seen and admired. While over and about all is a mellow sunshine of atmosphere, artistic, stimulating, and soothing, which is potent to every sympathetic visitor. It is not too much to say that the loyalty of the Japanese for their own wonderful land, their pride in its historic past, and their hope for its large future.

Brevity the Soul of Wit.

From the Omaha Bee.  
William D. Howells is said to have explained the eldritch American political situation to the King of Italy in an hour's conversation. Many members of Congress take more time than that telling why they are opposed to an elastic currency.

Is Nobody to Be Trusted?

From the Los Angeles Times.  
Politics has become so crooked that we would not be surprised to learn that the Prohibition party has accepted campaign contributions from the patent medicine manufacturers.

Truth and Fact.

From the Springfield Republican.  
The Brooklyn Eagle gives us this differentiation by Dr. Lyman Abbott: "News is fact up-to-date. Truth is fact in final form."

Taft's Popularity.

From Life.  
"De reason why Mistaft Taft's so popular," said the old dandy, "is 'jes' bec' he's got so much pussant magnitude."

AT THE HOTELS.

"Oklahoma is for Taft. He will get the votes," said Captain Charles A. Hunter, of Guthrie, chairman of the Republican State committee of Oklahoma, at the Raleigh, last night.

"There are a number of reasons why Oklahoma should go Republican at the Presidential election. In the first place, the Taft personally is popular and also represents the Roosevelt idea. You know everybody out there just thinks the world of Roosevelt."

"There were 389,000 legal voters in the State of Oklahoma, according to a bulletin issued by the Census Bureau. Of these, 251,000 were cast for the three candidates for governor at the last election, leaving 138,000 who did not vote."

"Every Democrat naturally voted the Democratic ticket. It is safe to say that every Democrat, or practically every Democrat, went to the polls to vote, because it meant also the ratification of a State constitution emanating and framed by Democrats. It may be guessed that most of the 129,000 who did not vote were Republicans."

"The constitution as adopted and framed by the Democrats is a masterpiece of wisdom. I dare say there are hundreds and thousands of Democrats who would vote to-day to revise it."

"Secretary Taft on his tour through Oklahoma advised fourteen reasons why the new State constitution from a legal standpoint, was defective. I myself am in favor of the initiative and referendum so far as the question to be submitted to the people for a vote concerns the whole State, and is not a question of pure law."

"Oklahoma is the best and richest and most prosperous State in the Union. The percentage of illiteracy is the lowest of any State, excepting the gold medal. Oklahoma-grown short staple cotton received the first prize at the Chicago Exposition. Oklahoma wheat and flour made of Oklahoma wheat received the first prize at the St. Louis Fair. Oklahoma coal and iron ore deposits of Oklahoma are practically inexhaustible and have not yet been touched."

"The people of Oklahoma are beginning to realize that the State is right when he advised our people not to vote for the adoption of the new constitution, advancing his reasons therefor. He has made himself solid with the people. There has come a great change over our voters within the last two weeks in favor of Taft, and the State will go Republican."

M. R. Shibley, of Seattle, Wash., who is visiting many of the large cities of the country the other side of the Yukon-Alaskan Exposition, to be held at Seattle, in 1909, said at the New Willard last night that the open door of China was an open door in name only, and that Japan had it effectually closed.

"There are 30,000 Japanese in Seattle," said Mr. Shibley, "3,000 of them living in one colony back of Fort Lawton. Their principal occupation is the raising of tea, which grows luxuriantly in that section of the country."

"Among other things, they take an active and observant interest in everything that the government does at Puget Sound. Japan is an illustration as to how a few days ago on the fort grounds and reservations."

"Each man had concealed about him a quantity of loose powder. Upon further investigation it was found that more of the explosive was hidden about their cabins. More startling, indeed, was the discovery that the Japanese had a number of these 3,000 homes there was one regulation army rifle and a uniform of the Mikado's army."

"This is only one indication that sooner or later we will have trouble with Japan. It is a well-known fact in Seattle and the Coast country that the Japanese government maintains spies in every large city on the Pacific Coast, and that these spies have charts and drawings of the entire Coast country."

"Puget Sound has been thoroughly charted by these foreigners, the soundings and fortifications all having been carefully noted. We of Seattle think we understand the action of the government in sending our magnificent fleet on that long cruise. First, it is to impress the nations of the world with the prowess and ability of our sea-fighting forces. Second, and I think most important of all, particularly in the case of Japan, it is to force an open port in China, regardless of Japan; and, furthermore, to impress upon Japan, in particular, the fact that the United States is thoroughly equipped as a world power, and the sea and fully awake to the possibilities of a conflict."

"The open door in China is an open door in name only. There isn't a port in the country that is open to our commodities. We of the Pacific Coast feel the handicap greatly," he frankly says, "we do not protect ourselves the Japanese will attack us sooner or later."

"The masses of the people in Kentucky look upon the tobacco war as a death grapple between the 'downtrodden grower' and the 'overbearing trust.' Their sympathy goes out to the former."

In these few words did George S. Evans, of Cincinnati, Ohio, a wholesale tobacco jobber, at the Cochran, last night, size up the situation in